

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2082
DEA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19524

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TGEN, SNAR, US, UR, PFOR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS: SOVIETS AGREE TO DEA VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: MOSCOW 15865

1. DURING DECEMBER 10 MEETING AT MFA WITH TRIFONOV, HEAD OF BILATERAL SECTION OF USA DIVISION, POLOFF RECEIVED PROMISED SOVIET RESPONSE TO POST'S NARCOTICS COORDINATOR'S DEMARCHE REPORTED REFTEL. TRIFONOV INFORMED POLOFF THAT USSR MAIN CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION AGREED TO MOSCOW VISIT BY DEA OFFICIALS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION ON DRUG TRANSIT THROUGH THE USSR. SOVIETS PROPOSE THAT THIS VISIT TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 21-24. TRIFONOV REQUESTED US REPLY ON ACCEPTABILITY OF PROPOSED VISIT TIMING AS WELL AS COMPOSITION OF US GROUP. POLOFF ADVISED TRIFONOV THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE VISIT OF DEA OFFICIALS AT THE TIME PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF THE CHRISTMAST HOLIDAYS. TRIFONOV RESPONDED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY PASS SOVIET PROPOSAL ON.

2. BEGIN COMMENT. AS DISCUSSED IN MOSCOW 12438 AND DURING THE SUBSEQUENT NARCOTICS COORDINATORS CONFERENCE IN LONDON, WE PERCEIVE THAT INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION BEFORE MEETING WITH THE SOVIETS IS ESSENTIAL. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THE TIMING PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS IS AWKWARD, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS PROXIMITY TO
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THE HOLIDAYS, BUT PARTICULARLY FOR THE

LACK OF LEAD TIME IT AFFORDS. END COMMENT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: IF DEPARTMENT AND DEA APPROVE, EMBASSY WILL
EXPRESS REGRET TO MFA THAT TIMING OFFERED IS INCONVENIENT BECAUSE
OF HOLIDAYS. U.S. COUNTERPROPOSAL ON TIMING WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
PLEASE ADVISE.
MATLOCK

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